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The Nation's Future
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(EXCERPTS)

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Los Angeles Police Chief William H. Parker and Attorney Edward Bennett Williams debated the topic "Are Wire Tapping and Eavesdropping Desirable Law Enforcement Methods?" Edwin Newman of NBC News moderated the program. The following was heard, in part:

NEWMAN: "Would you agree that wire-tapping by any other than law enforcement officers should be prohibited?"

PARKER: "Except for the security agencies of the United States--the C.I.A.--and they are not an enforcement agency. Because that's the only way they can match the wire-tapping the Russians are doing--if they can get in there and do a little themselves--it's a unilateral situation at best."

NEWMAN: "You are not arguing, however, that wire-tapping should take place only when national security is involved?"

PARKER: "No, I think it should move all the way down because the states have the problem of suppressing crime in the states."

WILLIAMS: "You are certainly not arguing that we should emulate the Russians in the administration of criminal justice, are you, sir?"

PARKER: "Did I say that I was? No--"

WILLIAMS: "I must have misunderstood you."

PARKER: "All right, I'm not going to get into a discussion about the way they tap tap the underseas and that sort of thing."

QUESTION (from audience): "Do you think there would be any situation in which wire-tapping would be desirable under the proper controls, or would you oppose all wire-tapping?"

WILLIAMS: "I testified, sir, before the Senate Judiciary Committee several weeks ago, and I said this, and I believe that this answers your question. If it can be demonstrated that wire-tapping is useful and necessary in cases affecting the security of our nation--treason, sabotage and espionage, particularly, specifically--then I would say